

Appl. No. 10/017,513
After Final Response dated February 23, 2006
Reply to Office action of February 22, 2006

In the claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) An audio monitoring and signal processing apparatus including in combination:

- a) a plurality of audio signal inputs, each operable to receive an audio signal, ~~at least two~~ one of which receives a first digital audio signal[[s]] having a first data rate and at least a second of which receives a second digital audio signal having a different data rate[[s]] than said first data rate, each of which ~~plurality of first and second digital~~ audio signals is carried via one or more channels,
- b) a selector for selecting the audio signal which may be present at one of said inputs of a),
- c) a signal processing section responsive to process said selected signal of b) to provided a processed signal carried via one or more channels,
- d) a plurality of output circuits, each responsive to all channels of said processed signal of c) to output said processed signal in a distinct known form,
- e) a monitor circuit responsive to said selected signal of b) and/or said processed signal of c) to provide audible and/or visible monitoring thereof.

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Claim 2. (currently amended) An audio monitoring and signal processing apparatus including in combination:

- a) a plurality of audio signal inputs, each operable to receive an audio signal, at least ~~two~~ one of which receives a first digital audio signal[[s]] having a first data rate and at least a second of which receives a second digital audio signal having a different data rate[[s]] than said first data rate, each of which ~~plurality of first and second digital~~ audio signals is carried via one or more channels,
- b) a selector for selecting the audio signal which may be present at one of said inputs of a),
- c) a signal processing section responsive to process said selected signal of b) to provided a processed signal carried via one or more channels,
- d) a plurality of output circuits, each responsive to all channels of said processed signal of c) to output said processed signal in a distinct known form,
- e) a monitor circuit responsive to said selected signal of b) and/or said processed signal of c) to provide audible and/or visible monitoring thereof,
- f) parameters which are established in manufacture and/or by an operator wherein said elements b) and c) operate in response to said parameters such that at least one of the selecting of b) and the processing of c) automatically changes in response to at least one signal present on one said input of a).

Claim 3. (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 or 2 further including a mixing element operable to mix ~~a second~~ another input audio signal with said selected signal of b) as part of providing said processed signal of c).

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Claim 4. (previously presented) An audio monitoring and signal conversion method including in combination:

- a) providing a plurality of audio signal input connections, at least one of which is capable of receiving digital audio signals of different data rates,
- b) selecting one of the audio signals which may be present at one of said input connections of
 - a) which selected audio signal is carried via one or more channels,
- c) processing said selected signal of b) to provide a processed signal carried via one or more channels,
- d) outputting all channels of said processed signal of c) in a plurality of distinct known forms,
- e) monitoring said selected signal of b) and/or said processed signal of c) in audible and/or visible form.

Claim 5. (previously presented) An audio monitoring and signal conversion method including in combination:

- a) providing a plurality of audio signal input connections,
- b) selecting one of the audio signals which may be present at one of said input connections of
 - a) which selected audio signal is carried via one or more channels,
- c) processing said selected signal of b) to provide a processed signal carried via one or more channels,
- d) outputting all channels of said processed signal of c) in a plurality of distinct known forms,
- e) monitoring said selected signal of b) and/or said processed signal of c) in audible and/or visible form,
- f) utilizing parameters which are established in manufacture and/or by an operator such that at least one of the selecting of step b) and the processing of step c) automatically changes in response to at least one signal present on one said input connection of a).

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Claim 6. (original) A method as claimed in claim 4 or 5 further including a mixing step operable to mix a second signal with said selected signal of b) as part of providing said processed signal of c).

Claim 7. (previously presented) An audio monitoring and signal conversion method including in combination:

- a) providing a plurality of audio signal input connections at least one of which is capable of receiving audio signals in digital form having differing data rates,
- b) selecting one of the audio signals which may be present at one of said input connections of a), which audio signal is carried on one or more channels,
- c) processing all of the channels of said selected signal of b) to provide a processed signal which includes one or more channels,
- d) outputting all channels of said processed signal of c) in a plurality of distinct known forms at least one of which is analog and at least one of which is digital,
- e) monitoring said selected signal of b) in audible and/or visible form.

Claim 8. (previously presented) An audio monitoring and signal conversion method including in combination:

- a) providing a plurality of audio signal input connections at least one of which is capable of receiving audio signals in digital form having differing data rates,
- b) selecting one of the audio signals which may be present at one of said input connections of a), which audio signal includes one or more channels,
- c) processing said selected signal of b) to provide a processed signal which includes one or more channels and which processed signal is responsive to all of the channels of said selected signal,
- d) outputting all channels of said processed signal of c) in a plurality of distinct known forms at least one of which is analog and at least one of which is digital,
- e) monitoring said processed signal of c) in audible and/or visible form.

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Claim 9. (previously presented) An audio monitoring and signal conversion method including in combination:

- a) providing a plurality of audio signal input connections,
- b) selecting one of the audio signals which may be present at one of said input connections of a), which audio signal is carried on one or more channels,
- c) processing all of the channels of said selected signal of b) to provide a processed signal which includes one or more channels,
- d) outputting all channels of said processed signal of c) in a plurality of distinct known forms at least one of which is analog and at least one of which is digital,
- e) monitoring said selected signal of b) in audible and/or visible form,
- f) utilizing parameters which are established by an operator such that at least one of the selecting of step b) and the processing of step c) automatically changes in response to at least one signal present on one said input connection of a).

Claim 10. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 7 or 8 further including a mixing step operable to mix a second signal with said selected signal of b) as part of providing said processed signal of c).

Claim 11. (previously presented) An audio monitoring and signal conversion method including in combination:

- a) providing a plurality of audio signal input connections,
- b) selecting one of the audio signals which may be present at one of said input connections of a), which audio signal is carried on one or more channels,
- c) processing all of the channels of said selected signal of b) to provide a processed signal which includes one or more channels,
- d) outputting all channels of said processed signal of c) in a plurality of distinct known forms at least one of which is analog and at least two of which are digital and are distinct by virtue of having different clock rates,
- e) monitoring said selected signal of b) in audible and/or visible form.

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Claim 12. (previously presented) An audio monitoring and signal conversion method including in combination:

- a) providing a plurality of audio signal input connections,
- b) selecting one of the audio signals which may be present at one of said input connections of a), which audio signal is carried on one or more channels,
- c) processing all of the channels of said selected signal of b) to provide a processed signal which includes one or more channels,
- d) outputting all channels of said processed signal of c) in a plurality of distinct known forms at least one of which is analog and at least two of which are digital and are distinct by virtue of meeting different industry standards for digital audio signals,
- e) monitoring said selected signal of b) in audible and/or visible form.

Claim 13. (previously presented) An audio monitoring and signal conversion method including in combination:

- a) providing a plurality of audio signal input connections,
- b) selecting one of the audio signals which may be present at one of said input connections of a), which audio signal includes one or more channels,
- c) processing said selected signal of b) to provide a processed signal which includes one or more channels and which processed signal is responsive to all of the channels of said selected signal,
- d) outputting all channels of said processed signal of c) in a plurality of distinct known forms at least one of which is analog and at least two of which are digital and are distinct by virtue of having different clock rates,
- e) monitoring said processed signal of c) in audible and/or visible form.

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Claim 14. (previously presented) An audio monitoring and signal conversion method including in combination:

- a) providing a plurality of audio signal input connections,
- b) selecting one of the audio signals which may be present at one of said input connections of a), which audio signal includes one or more channels,
- c) processing said selected signal of b) to provide a processed signal which includes one or more channels and which processed signal is responsive to all of the channels of said selected signal,
- d) outputting all channels of said processed signal of c) in a plurality of distinct known forms at least one of which is analog and at least two of which are digital and are distinct by virtue of meeting different industry standards for digital audio signals,
- e) monitoring said processed signal of c) in audible and/or visible form.

Claim 15. (previously presented) An audio monitoring and signal conversion method including in combination:

- a) providing a plurality of audio signal input connections,
- b) selecting one of the audio signals which may be present at one of said input connections of a), which audio signal includes one or more channels,
- c) processing said selected signal of b) to provide a processed signal which includes one or more channels and which processed signal is responsive to all of the channels of said selected signal,
- d) outputting all channels of said processed signal of c) in a plurality of distinct known forms at least one of which is analog and at least one of which is digital,
- e) monitoring said processed signal of c) in audible and/or visible form,
- f) utilizing parameters which are established by an operator such that at least one of the selecting of step b) and the processing of step c) automatically changes in response to at least one signal present on one said input connection of a).